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# The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events  
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol.4, Issue 1  
January 1, 2003

## Calendar of Events

For your convenience, a pull out calendar for January has been added. Future events will be listed below.

Feb 1, 10am-12pm	Pruning Clinic, True Value Hardware
Feb 4, 9:30-11:30am	
Feb 8, 10am-12pm	Pruning Clinic, Grafton Area
Feb 10	Deadline for Search For Excellence Awards
Feb 11, 9:30 am	Programming Meeting, St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Feb 15, 10am-12pm	Pruning Clinic, Bruton Area
Feb 20-23	Maymont Flower & Garden Show ( <a href="http://www.maymont.org/events/flower_show.html">www.maymont.org/events/flower_show.html</a> )
Feb 22, 10am-12pm	Pruning Clinic, Ken Matthews Landscape Nursery
Mar 1, 9am- 3pm	Horticultural Extravaganza, St. Luke's United Methodist Church
June 18-21	International Master Gardener Conference

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions / corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940, or Wanda Turner at 898-0653, e-mail: [wgt00@cox.net](mailto:wgt00@cox.net). The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

### ***Master Gardener Mission Statement***

*Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

# Notes from Jim

## Program Flowchart

By now you have received your program flowchart - a tool used by all Master Gardeners to help them to contact one another, canvas for help with a program, know who to call for help or get details on a project, and other forms to help with communications. The office contact information is listed and special program notes are on the front. Please update this through the year as e-mails change. The changes will be listed in the Green Thumb in order for you to see the hard copy. We do not update this list. If you loose your chart, please give us a call and we will mail a new one. Thank you very much for your willingness to volunteer in the program.

## 2003 Master Gardener Training Planning

Planning for the 2003 Master Gardener Training has begun. An earlier time line has been established and committees are beginning to work on their assigned tasks. The curriculum committee is meeting to plan and secure speakers by March. If interested in the planning process or want to give input, please attend a planning meeting which occurs the first Tuesdays of the month at 9:30, meeting at Yorkminster (for now) until we secure the final location.

## Using Resources in the Office

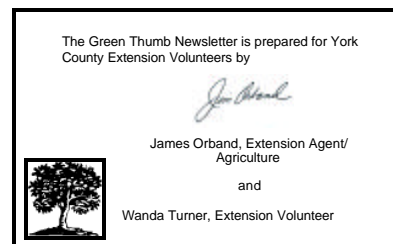
The monthly class on responding to phone calls will be held Wednesday January 8 from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. Limit 5 per session, pre-register at 890-4940. This very popular program is designed to acquaint master gardeners with the resources that are in the Extension Office, to do research, study information, prepare for exhibits, and to respond to telephone questions. This morning session will acquaint the volunteers with the location of information and files, become familiar with phone procedures, learn how to use specific CD programs on the computer and other information that is in the Extension Office. It is a lot of information but once you have been exposed to the information, you will feel capable and comfortable when you spend time in the office.

## Pruning Team

If you want to be on the pruning team and are not signed up, be sure to contact Marcia Plumley (898-8191). Marcia is calling now to set up clinics. If you want to be on any committee/team and your name is not listed with that committee/team, be sure to contact that coordinator so that they know your interest in the program.

## 2003 Pruning Team Activities Calendar (For Pruning Team Volunteers Only)

- \* Sat., Jan 11, 9:00-3:00 Advanced Pruning Training,  
Yorktown Elementary, 131 Siege Lane  
(letter mailed to all on team)
- \* Wed., Jan.15, 9:30-11:30 Practice Pruning Session  
Wolftrap Park, off of Wolftrap Road
- \* Tues., Jan 28, 9:30-11:30 Practice Pruning Session,  
County Administrative Office
- \* Thurs., Jan.30, 9:30-11:30 Practice Pruning Session,  
Tabb Branch of the York County Library



## Terry's Notes

Thank you to all for the fantastic turnout at our December holiday meeting. The feedback I've gotten on our speaker, Sybil Mays, has been more than positive! Folks who weren't very excited about the speaker and topic left with their horizons broadened as to their landscaping possibilities. I think everyone truly enjoyed our speaker! We'll try to get a day trip planned for the spring to visit "Paradise Nursery" and put some of those new ideas to work in our yards. A very sincere thank you for the adorable Frosty and card. Your words were very kind and meant a great deal to me. My last official duty is to welcome Beth Saunders as our coordinator for 2003. Beth, I wish you a most successful and enjoyable year and hope you have as much fun as I did! And to everyone I wish a most happy and prosperous New Year! Terry

## Beth's Notes

Greetings Master Gardeners and welcome Interns. As your 2003 Unit Coordinator, I thought I'd introduce myself and welcome you to another beautiful year of gardening. I live in Seaford, not far from the Extension office, and I am married with 3 children: Heather is all grown up and just graduated from NCSU, Kathleen is almost 13 and Kyle, 11. I'm a stay-at-home mom though I tried to go back to work 2 years ago and found I just didn't have the time for a "real" job! My degree is from VA Tech (please cheer now) in Engineering, which I'm sure will somehow come in very handy as MG Unit Coordinator (?). My husband Mark is also an engineer, working at NASA, but unfortunately he didn't get to go to VA Tech.

I've been a MG since 1997 but like many of you I still feel completely inadequate when it comes to plant identification, answering the dreaded phone calls and even growing things in my own yard. Since I'm coming clean here: I admit I sometimes say dirt when I should say *soil*. And I'm grass impaired – it took me 3 tries to get grass to grow in my yard. Cross your fingers, if it doesn't work this year I may be installing Astroturf and Jim may have to strip me of my badge. Did I mention Jim also went to VA Tech? (Please cheer now). Fortunately for me and for you as well, York Master Gardeners share a wealth of incredible gardening knowledge. You can always find a fellow MG with the know-how to solve your particular problem or help with your project. In fact I'm counting on it! Yes, we have a Learning Garden, but together we are learning at every meeting and event. I look forward to working with you, discovering your individual interests and maybe even helping you develop a new one!

Beth Saunders  
(Do I still hear someone cheering...)

## From the Departing Editor...

Please join me in welcoming the new editor of the Green Thumb, Wanda Turner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their cooperation and assistance to me in the past year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as editor and the chance it gave me to get to know many of you. I know you will continue to provide articles to Wanda on a timely basis, so that all of us may have the opportunity to continue to volunteer our time and energy to our many programs.

Thank you, Teresa Bennett

## Upcoming Programming Meeting

Our next programming meeting will be held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on January 14, at 9:30 AM. Please bring a food closet donation as the supplies were depleted over the holidays. Also, remember to wear your name badge. See you there!

## Message from Bonnie

We have set the price for Master Gardeners or Tree Stewards that want to take the new tree training series that we have set up with Norfolk Botanical Gardens at \$40 for the whole ten session series, or \$5 per session. That's approximately a 50% discount since the regular price is \$75 / \$10. When you register please have them tell Betty Ann at NBG that they are MGs or TSs. Thanks! Bonnie

## Mid Atlantic Short Course

Not many Master Gardeners signed up for the Mid Atlantic Short Course on January 20-22. You can still register at the door.

## Give a Little....Give a Lot

All Master Gardeners are welcome to participate in any part of the Extension program that you wish. The programs begin in January so be sure to ask questions or sign up when you see something of interest.

## Reporting / Keeping Informed

This Extension program is diverse and it reaches many different audiences. Coordinators keep the program in constant motion. It is important that each of you keep all of us informed. Please let us know what progress that you are making in your area by submitting a report. Thank you.

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*We're on the Web!*  
[www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce)

## YORK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER TIME SHEET

<b>NAME:</b>			<b>YTD FORWARD</b>
<b>PHONE:</b>			<b>E-MAIL:</b>
<b>DATE</b> (MONTH/DAY/YEAR) (You may also use this column to describe the work done)	<b>MILEAGE</b> (OPTIONAL)	<b>CATEGORY</b> (CIRCLE ONE PLEASE)	<b>TIME SPENT</b> (EXAMPLE LISTED BELOW)
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	
		1    2    3	

### INPUT EXAMPLE

1 ¼ hours equals 1.25 hours    1 ½ hours equals 1.5 hours    1 ¾ hours equals 1.75 hours

### CATEGORIES

**1) Community Outreach** - Any activity that involves the Master Gardener giving direct contact with the public to help solve their educational needs individually or in groups.

**2) Continuing Education** - Any activity which involves/engages the Master Gardener in continuing their learning experiences that will benefit them in the delivery of the Virginia Cooperative Extension program. Activities include attending educational programs that enhance your ability to serve and become proficient as a master gardener.

**3) Administrative Support** - Planning and executing tasks that ready the educational program for presenting to the public.

--Over--

## CATEGORIES/ACTIVITIES

<p><b>1 ) Community Outreach</b> - Any activity that involves the Master Gardener giving direct contact with the public to help solve their educational needs individually or in groups. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching or presenting educational information (including pruning, lawns, vegetables)</li> <li>• Explaining about Cooperative Extension</li> <li>• Demonstrating planting techniques</li> <li>• Responding to Horticultural phone calls and walk-ins including research efforts</li> <li>• Promoting educational programs</li> <li>• Moderating any educational programs (M.G. class, Hort Extravaganza)</li> </ul>	<p><b>2) Continuing Education</b> - (MG is receiving the training) Any activity which involves/engages the Master Gardener in continuing their learning experiences that will benefit them in the delivery of the Virginia Cooperative Extension program. Activities include attending educational programs that enhance your ability to serve and become proficient as a master gardener. Educational programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virginia Professional Horticulture Conference</li> <li>• Virginia Flower and Garden Show</li> <li>• Subject matter educational meetings</li> <li>• Annual gardening symposiums</li> <li>• Master Gardener College</li> </ul>
<p><b>3) Administrative Support</b> - Planning and executing tasks that ready the educational program for presenting to the public. Tasks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinating program activities</li> <li>• Gathering publications for educational programs</li> <li>• Copying/duplicating materials</li> <li>• Calling Master Gardeners or program participants</li> <li>• Proof reading and correcting rough drafts</li> <li>• Relaying information</li> <li>• Recording and reporting on checking account balances</li> <li>• Delivering materials</li> <li>• Sorting, shelving and processing unit library</li> <li>• Collecting, recording, reporting volunteer hours</li> </ul>	<p><b>Note: Veteran MGs must perform 20 hours of volunteer work in any category listed above as well as 8 hours of continuing education per year to retain MG designation.</b></p> <p><b>Please turn-in time sheets monthly by mail, e-mail, fax, or on foot.</b></p> <p><b>Virginia Cooperative Extension York County Office (Attn: Terry Hanson) 100 County Drive PO Box 532 Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532 Office (757) 890-4940 * Fax (757) 890-4033 E-mail - ex199@vt.edu</b></p>

**HAMPTON ROADS TREE CARE ASSOCIATION  
&  
NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN  
Present:  
“TREES ARE PRICELESS”**

The focus of this 10 session seminar series is to provide essential information on successful tree establishment and growth in our urban landscapes to tree care professionals as well as the general public. Continuing Education Units for ISA and VNLA recertification will be available at the conclusion of each course. This will be an ongoing series that can be started and completed at any time.

**“TREES ARE PRICELESS” (TAP) Seminar Series for 2003**

February -November on the second Thursday 7-9 p.m. Norfolk Botanical Garden - Holly Room

**“Field Day”** Saturday, May 31, 9-12am NBG Rose Garden Hall

Registration: \$10 per session or a discount price of \$75 for the entire series.

Contact- Mik Lestyan at (757) 382-6531 for schedule information

Betty Ann Galway for registration (757) 441-5830 ext. 336

1. Feb 13      **Tree Selection, Installation and Establishment** – Selecting the right tree for a location, planting and providing proper after planting care for assured healthy growth.  
Mik Lestyan, Chesapeake City Arborist.
2. March 13    **Tree Biology** – The mystery uncovered; trees are living organisms.  
Dr. Tom Tracy, Director of Education, Virginia Turf Grass Council  
**Tree Identification** – Why and how we name trees.  
Glen Butler, Streamline Tree Care
3. April 10    **Soils and Water** – How much water & what kind of soil trees need.  
David Sivyer, Norfolk City Forester.
4. May 31      **“Field Day”**- Demonstrations of technical aspects of tree care- climbing, rigging and pruning. Utilizing certified arborists as demonstrators and instructors- with concurrent classes held indoors.
5. June 12     **Tree Nutrition and Fertilization** – The latest research on how, when and why trees should be fertilized.  
Dr Bonnie Appleton, Virginia Tech.
6. July 10     **Tree pruning** – When, what and how to prune.  
Oscar Richardson, Colonial Trees.
7. Aug 14      **Protecting Trees-** Before, during and after construction.  
Roger Huff, Virginia Beach City Arborist
8. Sept 11     **Diagnosing Tree Problems** – A systematic approach.  
Andrew Koenig, Bartlett Trees.
9. Oct 9       **Tree Health Care** – Urban trees require more TLC. After diagnosing the problem- prescribing the proper treatment is essential for tree health.  
Andrew Koenig, Bartlett Trees
10. Nov 13    **Tree Hazards-** How to recognize hazards and what to do about them.  
Burt Smeltzer, The Tree Consultant

This series will be repeated in February 2004.

# JANUARY 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Extension office closed	2	3 9:30-11:30 AM Home Gardener Ext Conf Rm Carolyn Kohten 867-1067	4
5	6	7 9:30-11:30 Master Gardener Planning Mtg Yorkminster	8 Using Office Resources 9:30am-12 noon Pre-registration required	9	10 9:30-11:30 Hort Extrav Mtg – St Lukes Laurice Becker 868-3713	11 Adv. Pruning Training 9am-3pm (Pruning Team)
12	13	14 9:30 AM Programming Meeting – St. Luke's	15 Practice Pruning 9:30-11:30 AM (Pruning Team) Preregister 890-4940	16	17 Virginia Flower & Garden Show, VA Beach Pavilion www.vafgs.org	18 Virginia Flower & Garden Show VA Beach Pavilion
19 Virginia Flower & Garden Show VA Beach Pavilion	20 Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course - See Dec Green Thumb www.phcv.org	21 Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course See Dec. Green Thumb	22 Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course See Dec. Green Thumb	23	24	25 Homeowners Fruit Day 10am-12 noon
26	27	28 Practice Pruning 9:30-11:30 AM (Pruning Team) Preregister 890-4940	29	30 Practice Pruning 9:30-11:30 AM (Pruning Team) Preregister 890-4940	31	